



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

### SOCIAL, HEALTH & ALZHEIMER'S COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES July 10, 2008

#### **Council Members, Liaisons & Committee Participants Present**

Doyle Meredith (Chair), Joyce Finkelstein, Paul Herrmann, Bernadine Hoffmann, Sharon McKinley, Bernadette Polley, David Besst, Karissa Bonkrude, Elton Bordenave, David Coon, Dan Lawler, Archie Mariano, Michele Michaels, Julie Ngiriye, Sharyle Price, Kathy Rood, Diana Toussaint, Sherry Verges, Gary Warner, Joan Zecherle

#### **Council Members Not Present**

Lynn Adler, Kati Bates

#### **Staff Present**

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Dan Plumhoff, Valerie Fifield

#### **Guests Present**

Mr. Phillip Cardona, Ms. Ginny Clark-Wright, Mr. Jay Crosby, Mr. Dan Fern, Ms. Victoria Furst, Ms. Jami Goldman, Ms. Conni Ingallina, Ms. Kirti Khalsa, Mr. Filmer Lalio, Mr. Joel Millman, Ms. Pam Stevenson, Mr. John Stroud, Ms. Lois Von Halle

#### **Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the April 3, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

*Bernadine Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Bernadette Polley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Updates**

##### ***Falls Prevention Coalition Grant***

Executive Director Melanie Starns thanked the Social, Health and Alzheimer's Committee members for all of the hard work that they put forth in order to make the 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging a success, and she provided an overview of the Falls Prevention Coalition Grant awarded to the Governor's Office on Aging by the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. Ms. Starns stated that the goal of the grant is the establishment of a Maricopa County based Falls Prevention Coalition, a coalition that will lay the groundwork for the creation of a statewide coalition. Governor's Office on Aging Special Projects Director, Valerie Fifield, who will serve as the Falls Prevention Project Director, elaborated on the goals of the grant, noting that its intent is to bring multiple evidence-based falls prevention programs throughout the state together within a comprehensive database, and to facilitate communication among these programs in order to improve statewide access to falls prevention services. Additionally, Ms. Fifield noted

that this will be a broad coalition that addresses all aspects of falls prevention, and that the Falls Prevention Coalition Steering Committee will identify Matter of Balance and other evidence-based program master trainers, coordinate marketing efforts, and ultimately drive statewide efforts. Ms. Starns stated that the Falls Prevention Coalition grant is an 18 month project which will begin on August 1, 2008. Ms. Starns asked that anyone interested in being involved in the coalition express their interest by placing their names on the sign-in sheet Ms. Fifield passed throughout the room.

### ***Arizona Caregiver Coalition***

SHAC Chair Doyle Meredith thanked and congratulated Mr. David Besst and the Informal Caregiving Sub Committee on helping to make the Governor's Conference on Aging a success and on the establishment of the Arizona Caregiver Coalition (ACC). Mr. Meredith provided an overview of the Coalition, noting that the Coalition's Steering Committee is currently pursuing 502 (c) (3) and 501(c) (4) status, and is working with the Department of Economic Security's Division of Aging and Adult Services in the area of lifespan respite development. More information will be provided to SHAC about the ACC as the coalition leadership emerges and as things move forward.

### **Conference Debriefing**

Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa and Ms. Bernadine Hoffman provided an overview of the feedback they have received regarding the 2008 Governor's Conference on Aging. Ms. Hoffman noted that the Conference evaluation forms will be presented at the July 11, 2008 Council meeting by Mr. Barry Spiker, and she noted that much of the feedback and comments she compiled pertaining to the Conference included the following:

- A greater focus on solution based topics
- The need for an increased amount of available resources
- Greater attention to rural areas
- An overall positive view of the Conference location and the facilities used

Additionally, Ms. De Lisa stated that she has received positive feedback from Conference, speakers, and attendees of both the Falls Prevention and Caregiver sessions, and she noted that several of the Falls Prevention and Caregiving conference speakers had offered to assist with presentations in the future. Several sponsors provided good ideas on ways to improve the conference as well.

### **Discussion and Brainstorming on Committee's Future Initiatives**

SHAC Chair Doyle Meredith commended the Social, Health and Alzheimer's Committee for having successfully launched both the Caregiver and Falls Prevention Coalitions. Mr. Meredith then opened the floor for a brainstorming session on the possible future initiatives that the Committee might undertake, and a discussion ensued. He shared the motion passed at the LPCC meeting to move forward affordable dental care as a potential initiative to the SHAC group. After much discussion and prioritizing of suggested topics, the Committee then put forth the following three initiatives for further consideration based on the consensus that each initiative includes the need for awareness and contains the common threads of nutrition, transportation, access, and debunking ageism:

- Senior Depression/Suicide/Mental Health/Substance Abuse
- Affordable Dental Care
- Hearing Loss

Other initiatives discussed included:

- Options Counseling
- Elder Exploitation
- Diabetes / Prevention

The Committee members determined that further information needs to be collected for additional discussion on the three possible initiatives at the September 4, 2008 Committee meeting. Ms. De Lisa provided the Committee with her email address and Ms. Starns asked that all information collected by Committee members be sent directly to Ms. De Lisa.

#### **Other Updates, New Business, & Announcements**

- Mr. Dan Lawler displayed several promotional posters that the Alzheimer's Association has acquired. He indicated he would be happy to provide these to any group or agency requesting them.
- Mr. Besst stated that the Lifespan Respite Sub-committee of the Arizona Caregiver Coalition will be holding its second meeting on July 15, 2008 at the Valley of the Sun School and Rehabilitation Center.

#### **Action Items**

- The Social, Health and Alzheimer's Committee members will gather information pertaining to the three issues of Senior Depression/Suicide/Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Affordable Dental Care, and Hearing Loss and provide Ms. Cathy De Lisa with that information prior to the September 4, 2008 Committee meeting.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Doyle Meredith at 4:23 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The next Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meeting will be September 4, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. in the State Executive Tower, Second Floor Conference Room. This is a change in date from previously published calendars. These meetings are open to the public.